

SENATE RESOLUTION 6
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ed Williams III of
Johnson City.

WHEREAS, it was with sadness and a deep sense of loss that this General Assembly learned of the passing of Ed Williams III, a distinguished judge whose life's passion was the conservation and protection of the environment; and

WHEREAS, Ed Williams III was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Ed Williams III served with acumen and alacrity as a judge, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and those who appeared before him for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Williams fostered a fondness for wildlife and wilderness and was renowned as a outdoors enthusiast; and

WHEREAS, because of his ardor for the environment, Mr. Williams received the Z. Carter Patten Award from the Tennessee Conservation League, the highest award for conservation given in Tennessee. It is a lifetime achievement award which recognizes his "many years of effective and valuable service to the cause of conservation in Tennessee, including, but not limited to, natural resources management, environmental protection and enhancement, public education, public service, or political support"; and

WHEREAS, Ed Williams III volunteered his time, energy, and assistance to such notable groups as the Conservation Fund, Appalachian Trail Conference, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Ruffed Grouse Society, The Appalachian Regional Commission, Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Tennessee Conservation League; and

WHEREAS, nationally known for his leadership in conservation and natural resource issues, Mr. Williams served a number of years on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee of the National Parks Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Ed Williams III was also a valuable member on many statewide boards and commissions, including the Conservation Commission, the Governor's Safe Growth Cabinet Council, the Tennessee Board of Regents, and the Governor's Select Committee on Clean Water; and

WHEREAS, for two years, Ed Williams III served with distinction as a Chair for the Forestry Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams took his love for the outdoors to the highest level by helping found new organizations such as Partners of the Cherokee National Forest, which he served both as a member of its board and as the Vice Chairman; Mr. Williams also helped found the regional Open Spaces Conservancy and served as Chairman; and

WHEREAS, for more than three decades, Mr. Williams was active in local, regional, state, national, and international conservation efforts and became known as an expert on environmental issues. Former Governor Don Sundquist, U.S. Senators Bill Frist and Lamar Alexander, and current Governor Phil Bredeson consulted Ed Williams III as an informal adviser on a variety of natural resource issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams lent his noteworthy talents to skillfully negotiate a land donation for the Watauga River Bluffs State Natural Area and a gift of the Archie Tract, which ensured that a lengthy portion of the Watauga River Trophy Trout corridor will be spared from development; he was also instrumental in preserving 10,000 acres of undeveloped Appalachian land controlled by Alcoa, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ed Williams III leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Ed Williams III of Johnson City, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to protecting the environment and preserving it for future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Ed Williams III.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.